

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 OMB-01 EB-08 /090 W

-----017161 151019Z /16

R 131804Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2283

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE GETS ROUGHER

1. AS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION WORSENS, INTER AND INTRA PARTY TENSIONS ARE FINDING OUTLETS IN WILD ACCUSATIONS, AND INTER-PARTY INTIMIDATION GROWING. THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT DAILY GLEANER ON JULY 4 REPORTED A SPEECH BY FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON IN WHICH PATTERSON IS ALLEGED TO HAVE PLEDGED UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND TROTTED OUT THE OLD ACCUSATION THAT "IN 1976 THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM USED AGENTS FROM OUTSIDE TO DISCREDIT THE PNP...THESE FORCES ARE NOW USING AGENTS FROM WITHIN TO TRY TO DISCREDIT THE ORGANIZATION..." WE DO NOT KNOW HOW ACCURATE THE GLEANER REPORT IS, BUT IF ACCURATE IT MAY SIGNAL THAT PATTERSON AGAIN MAY BE RUNNING SCARED IN MAKING A POWER PLAY WITHIN THE PARTY. THE "FORCES OF IMPERIALISM" CHARGE IS A VEILED ACCUSATION THAT THE CIA IS AGAIN TRYING TO DRIVE MANLEY FROM POWER.

2. ON JULY 10 THERE WAS MOB VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION REPORTED ON THE RADIO AND IN THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPTS BY VARIOUS NON-JLP OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR ELECTION TO THE
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LOWER HOUSE SEAT VACATED BY FORMER FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL PNP CANDIDATE, DUDLEY THOMPSON, ONLY ONE OTHER PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE, INDEPENDENT DONALD THOMPSON, SUCCEEDED IN HAVING HIS NOMINATION ACCEPTED. OTHER CANDIDATES WERE REPORTED ROUGHED UP BY A LARGE CROWD OF PNP SUPPORTERS, AND HAD THEIR APPLICATIONS REJECTED ON VARIOUS TECHNICAL GROUNDS. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD

STORIES OF GROWING VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH POLITICAL PARTY GANGS OF SUPPORTERS IN THE POORER SECTIONS OF KINGSTON.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WILD, UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS, INTIMIDATION AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE ARE NOT NEW TO JAMAICAN POLITICS, THEY HAVE BEEN DORMANT UNTIL RECENTLY. WITH TWO BI-ELECTIONS COMING UP, THE PNP SEEMS TO BE DUSTING THEM OFF AGAIN. IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THE OPPOSITION JLP WOULD NOT HESITATE TO DO THE SAME THING IF THEY WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS.

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